

WI-445

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Benjamin H. Byrd House

Salisbury

Private

The chain of title research for this corner lot at the intersection of Hill and First streets traces the history of this two-story, early nineteenth-century house back to Benjamin H. Byrd (1805-1857), although the exact date of construction and initial ownership remain obscure. The side hall/parlor plan, the steeply pitched roof, and the Federal cornice that trims the base of the roof are convincing architectural details to date this house around 1815-20, making it one of a small number early nineteenth-century dwellings to remain in Salisbury. However, this house was probably moved to this corner location sometime after 1877 since it is not indicated on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. This house, nor the south end of Third Street below Hill Street, were included on the Salisbury map, thereby suggesting its relocation during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Following Benjamin H. Byrd's death in 1857, the property fell to his wife Henrietta (1811-1890), and then to their grandchildren Ernest Byrd and Annie T. Byrd. It is uncertain when Benjamin H. Byrd acquired this parcel.

On July 2, 1909 the house and lot were acquired by Azariah Hillman, who is listed in the 1907 Salisbury City directory as a gardener. Azariah and his wife Olevia retained ownership until 1914. Older residents of the neighborhood recall Hillman's Store which was located on the corner with the house. Since the early twentieth century the property has transferred a half dozen times.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: William H. Byrd House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-445

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIESMaryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Benjamin H. Byrd House, Hillman House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 610 Hill Street ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Terry R. Sell

street & number P. O. Box 2142 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21802

5. Location of Legal Descriptioncourthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 106, P. 1289
liber 1444

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 478

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-445

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically identified as the Benjamin H. Byrd house, and also known as the Azariah Hillman house, this two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor frame dwelling stands at 610 Hill Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland.

Estimated to date around 1815-20, the two-story, side hall/parlor frame house is supported on a covered brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing.

The northeast (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking single-pane replacement windows that fill the adjacent bays. The second floor is lighted by three single-pane sash replacement windows. Trimming the base of the gable roof is a boxed cornice enhanced with a Federal style cove bed molding.

The northwest gable end is defined by single-pane sash replacement windows on each side of an interior end brick chimney. The flush gable end is finished with a plain bargeboard. Rising through the peak of the gable end is a rebuilt brick chimney that dates to the early twentieth century.

The southeast (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by the single-story kitchen wing, which is extended on its north side by a shed roofed addition. An interior end brick chimney rises through the gable end.

The interior was not seen, but the house was thoroughly remodeled for the purposes of a rental.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-445

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Following Benjamin H. Byrd's death in 1857, the property fell to his wife Henrietta (1811-1890), and then to their grandchildren Ernest Byrd and Annie T. Byrd.¹ It is uncertain when Benjamin H. Byrd acquired this parcel.

On July 2, 1909 the house and lot were acquired by Azariah Hillman, who is listed in the 1907 Salisbury City directory as a gardener.² Azariah and his wife Olevia retained ownership until 1914.³ Since the early twentieth century the property has transferred a half dozen times.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 65/90, 2 July 1909. This transfer includes a summary of the early history of this lot, which encompassed one acre bounded by Fitzwater, First and Hill Street.

² Salisbury, Maryland City Directory (1907), transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, p. 25.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 92/380, 23 May 1914.

Survey No. WI-445

PS-2746

WI-445
Benjamin H. Byrd House
610 Hill Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1289

1444/478

Jill D. Sell

to

2/1/1995

Terry R. Sell
Plat Reference 324/472

938/540

John W. Anderson, Personal Representative of Alta T.
Armstrong and Charles Bernard Evans

to

2/25/1988

Terry R. Sell
Jill D. Sell

870/208

Pauline C. Smith

to

1/28/1977

Alta T. Armstrong
Charles Bernard Evans

JWS 240/382

Laura P. Wailes

to

2/24/1942

Alton P. Smith
Pauline C. Smith, Kent County, Delaware

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Benjamin H. Byrd House
610 Hill Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JWS 240/381 Alton P. Smith

to

2/24/1942 Laura P. Wailes

JWS 222/21 Hugh M. Cordrey, widower et al. (Laura F. Taylor, Chas.
E. Taylor, John McFaddin Smith, Hilda P. Smith, Norris
P. Smith, Gertrude W. Smith

to

12/16/1939 Alton P. Smith
65 feet on Hill Street, 79 feet on First Street

EAT 92/380 Azariah Hillman
Olevia Hillman

to

5/23/1914 Leona S. Cordrey (under the name of Leona S. Smith)

EAT 65/90 Henry L. D. Stanford and Harry B. Morris, trustees

to

7/2/1909 Azariah Hillman
Whereas Benjamin H. Byrd being siezed in fee of certain
real estate...including among other the hereinafter
described land departed this life on or about August 17,
1857, intestate leaving surviving him his widow Henrietta
Byrd and his grandson Ernest Byrd and his granddaughter
Annie T. Byrd-since intermarried with Jerry T. Morris,

1 acre-bounded by Fitzwater Street, First Street and Hill
Street

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Benjamin H. Byrd House
610 Hill Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JTT 24/401

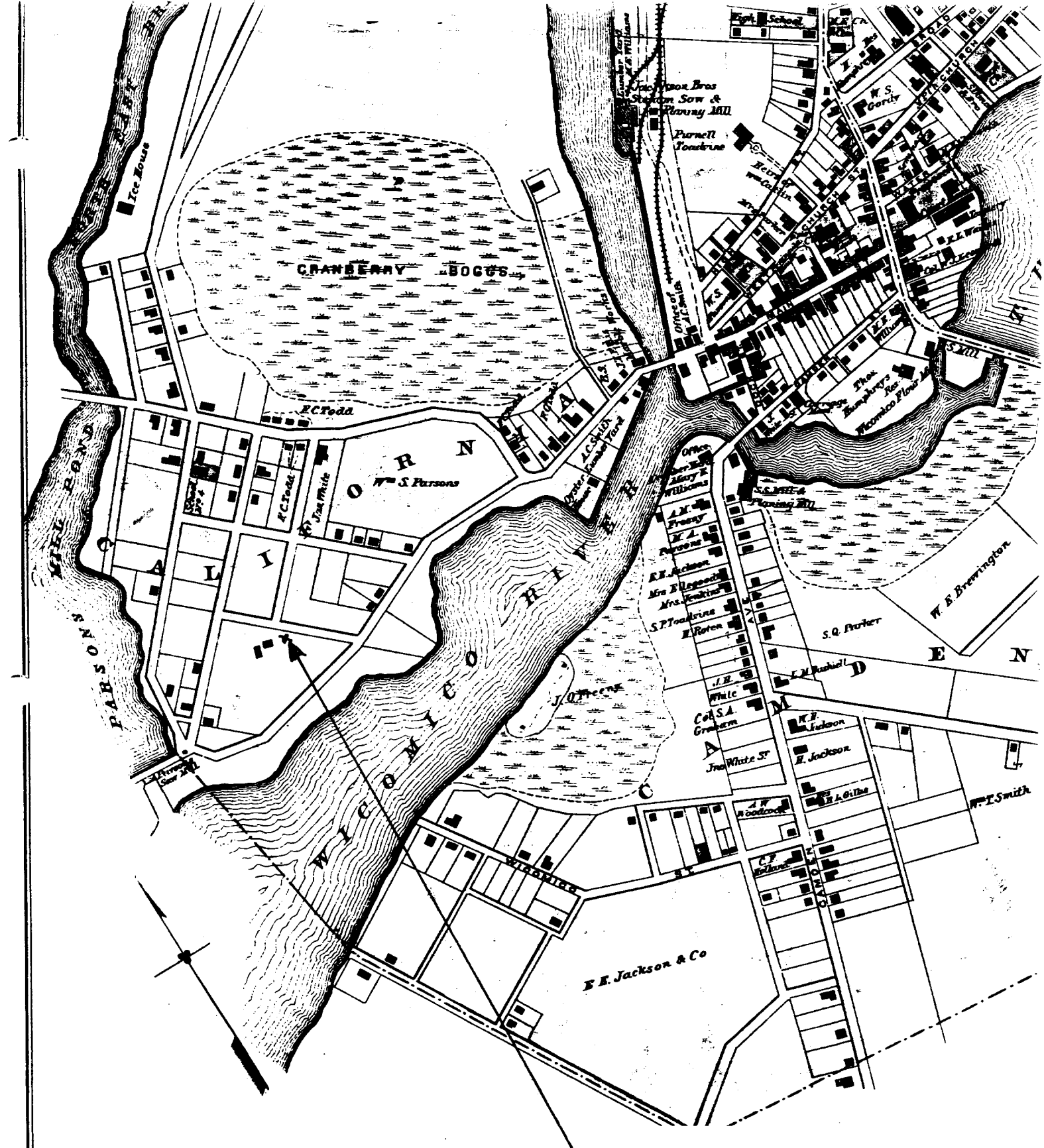
Annie T. Morris

to

4/22/1899

Henry L. D. Stanford
Harvey B. Morris, trustees

5th Item: all that lot belonging to said Annie T. Morris,
situate at the corner of Hill and Fitzwater streets in said
City of Salisbury



WI-445

Benjamin H. Byrd House

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

5860 1 NW
(HEBRON)

447000m E.

35'

